MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

10 NOVEMBER 1980

Iranian Domestic Affairs

Qotbzadeh Arrest--In an interview with Tehran radio broadcast on 9 November, Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili, public prosecutor general, mentioned that former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh had been arrested. AFP reported on 7 November that he was arrested that day for having made "provocative statements" in a Tehran television interview on 6 November. According to a TANJUG report, Qotbzadeh had appeared on television's second channel with Mohammad Moballeghi-Eslami, acting supervisor of the Voice and Vision, Iran's radio and television network, calling them "counterrevolutionaries."

A statement issued by the Publicity Staff of the Supreme Defense Council the day after the interview and carried by Tehran radio warned against acts of "selfishness and factionalism" and called on the mass media to refrain from "fanning the flames of personal and group differences." The statement said Qotbzadeh and Moballeghi-Eslami had put forth "divisive issues" in the television interview and had created "an atmosphere of anxiety and pessimism" toward the country's responsible authorities and mass media. It added the Publicity Staff is pursuing the matter through the judicial authorities and "will take appropriate measures in this respect."

According to Tehran radio, the Majlis on 9 November discussed the operation of the Voice and Vision. In the debate Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani summarized events in its operation since September. He said Taqi Farahi, appointed in June by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr as director general of the Voice and Vision, resigned on 23 September to become Iran's ambassador to China. Farahi appointed Moballeghi-Eslami acting supervisor. Moballeghi-Eslami undertook personnel changes that upset various groups within the Majlis, and Public Prosecutor Ardebili asked him to suspend his personnel changes until a permanent supervisor was appointed. Ardebili met with Ayatollah Khomeyni on 7 November and he has instructed to appoint temporary supervisors. In an interview with Tehran radio, Ardebili confirmed this sequence of events and said that the issue was about to be resolved when the controversial interview took place.

Earlier, Tehran's Friday imam, Ayatollah Khamene'i, protested against those trying to cause the people "to deviate" from the "content of our radio and television." In his Friday prayer sermon, carried by Tehran radio, Khamene'i said the people were listening to the BBC, VOA or Israeli radio instead of the radio of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Former Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, in a 9 November interview with MIZAN cited by AFP, appealed to Ayatollah Khomeyni to free Qotbzadeh, adding that his arrest was "curing a toothache with a fist and a hammer." He called Qotbzadeh's arrest a blow to Islam and the Iranian revolution. President Bani-Sadr, in an interview with ISLAMIC REVOLUTION carried by AFP, said that he would no longer appear on Iranian radio and television "so long as they do not mend their ways," and he warned against total censorship.

The Muslim fundamentalist paper AZADEGAN, according to AFP, accused Qotbzadeh of "insulting the Imam Khomeyni and the revolution." Azadegan said Qotbzadeh and Moballeghi-Eslami had discredited Iran's mass media and warned that "following the arrest of these two men, it is necessary to continue in order to neutralize the fifth column of colonialism operating in the country." Qotbzadeh, in an interview with Paris radio apparently given before his arrest, denounced Iranian radio and television and said the press is unaware of the international impact of its statements. He said the "mediocre figures who have taken over our government" have no awareness of the importance of the foreign press for Iran's cause and the present government "is actually incompetent to understand things like that."

Monetary Reserves--AFP reported that the Iranian Central Bank on 8 November denied a report in the London FINANCIAL WEEKLY that Iran's monetary reserves are almost totally exhausted. The bank's vice governor told AFP Iran's reserves, excluding gold, are enough to cover imports and service the external debt for 7 months. He denied Iran had withdrawn deposits from London banks and called "totally false" the FINANCIAL WEEKLY's claim at non-Iranian banks are reluctant to open letters of credit to finance Iran's imports.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation--According to Tehran radio, President Bani-Sadr met with Ayatollah Khomeyni on 7 November and reported on the war situation. He said the Iranian Armed Forces have stopped enemy attacks in key areas. The armed forces are mobilizing additional equipment and "as for their quality, the armed forces are dozens of times stronger" than before, he added. In his prayer sermon in Qom, reported by Tehran radio, Ayatollah 'Ali Montazeri said Iran has sufficient force to fight the enemy, but he questioned why affairs are moving ahead so "sluggishly." He said there are sufficient reserves of war material in depots "but the responsible authorities and war commanders cannot make firm decisions." These issues need to be investigated, he said, adding that army commanders should "act with greater decisiveness and should break the encirclement of Khuninshahr (Khorramshahr) and Abadan. "If they are weak and incapable" then Khomeyni would make the decisions, he said.

Speaking about the war with Iraq, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i said Iran "wants to prolong this war" because this would cut the ties between the people and the Iraqi regime and lead to its downfall. In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR, carried by MENA, Raja'i said the 1975 Algiers agreement does not contain clauses giving Iraq the right to attack Iran if it does not abide by this agreement. Iraq fears the Islamic revolution, and this explains its attack on Iran, he said.

On the specifics of the fighting between Iran and Iraq, Tehran radio reported Iranian forces had attacked the enemy along the Abadan front and northeast of the Bahmanshir River, pushing them back several kilometers. Another Iranian attack was successful on the Mahshahr-Abadan road. Around the Allaho Akbar heights between Susangerd and Bostan, Iranian forces inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Iranian units also continued their advance on the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar and Gilan-e Gharb axis and forced Iraqi forces off two heights near Dehloran.

Tehran radio also reported the commanders of Iraqi forces in the western regions have been changed three times and a number of military dissidents have been arrested and taken to unspecified locations. PARS claimed that airborne forces completely destroyed the Iraqi post of Kalat, killing 50 and wounding 100.

In the air war, an Iraqi Armed Forces communique, carried by Baghdad radio, admitted Iranian planes raided As-Sulaymaniyah and At-Ta'min but claimed Iraqi antiaircraft fire downed four attackers. Tehran radio also reported Iranian planes raided Panjwin and Kirkuk, hitting oil and gas installations there.

Captured Iranian Oil Minister--The Iranian Government issued a statement accusing Iraq of subjecting captured Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Tondguyan "to such torture that now his life is in danger." The statement, reported on Tehran radio, cited reports from international news agencies and an Iraqi newspaper that claimed Tondguyan is suffering from severe bleeding. Iran holds Iraq responsible for Tondguyan's life and calls on the International Red Cross to intensify its efforts for his release, the statement added.

Egypt

In a statement reported by MENA, President Anwar as-Sadat described his talks with Israeli Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres as "very constructive" and added that he was "much more optimistic after the talks I had with my friend Shim'on Peres and his delegation." Asked whether the change of administration in the United States might lead the autonomy talks into a new impasse, As-Sadat said: "We cannot say it is an impasse when we explain that the swearing in will take place on 20 January. Thus, it is natural that we wait until the man is sworn in, and after that we can discuss the various options." Asked about his views on the Israeli Labor Party position concerning the "Jordanian option," As-Sadat said Peres and his associates "have the idea that King Husayn must join now, while I am against this idea." The president added that Egypt, Israel and the United States should reach an agreement on "full autonomy" and afterward "we would ask King Husayn and the Palestinians to join us, especially since during this period we will not make a decision on the

Palestinians' issue or anyone else but are only trying to put the Palestinians on the proper road leading to a comprehensive settlement." Concerning the possibility of a summit conference with President Carter before 20 January, As-Sadat stated that he is waiting for the outcome of contacts with the U.S. Government through his foreign minister. Regarding President-elect Reagan's election statements concerning the Palestinians, As-Sadat said he is "not concerned very much" because of the nature of U.S. election campaigns.

MENA also carried a report of an interview with President as-Sadat by the Mexican paper EXCELSIOR in which the Egyptian president was asked to give his concept of a future Palestinian state. Replying to this, As-Sadat stated "Egypt's view is that this state sould be linked with Jordan in a federal, confederal or other system." He added that the Palestinian state "could be demilitarized as part of security arrangements between the new state and Israel" and then went on to say that "the essential thing" is that Israel and the Palestinians should "sit together and negotiate on the security arrangements." Asked about Jerusalem, President as-Sadat said that his idea for a solution is that the city should not be divided again, that there should be "free access" to all the holy shrines and that the unified city should have three municipalities--one Arab, one Israeli and one a joint Arab-Israeli municipality headed by alternately elected Arab and Israeli mayors.

Israel

Begin U.S. Visit--Jerusalem radio cited Prime Minister Menahem Begin as announcing that, to the best of his knowledge, he will not meet with President-elect Ronald Reagan on his forthcoming visit to the United States. Referring to the President-elect's campaign commitments, Begin said: "Let us hope that everything that was said during the election campaign will also be implemented by the administration." The prime minister went on to say there was a "possibility" that the tripartite summit conference would not be held until after the new president takes office. He added: "I assume that after my meeting with President Carter I will know more about the possible date of the summit conference." Asked whether the meetings of Labor Party leaders with President as-Sadat had harmed the autonomy negotiations, Begin stated: "I do not think this necessarily interferes with the negotiations themselves." The prime minister went on to say: "I hope that the planned meeting, on 17 November, will be held and that we will decide on additional dates. I do not think this visit will be any obstacle."

Raid Into Lebanon--According to Jerusalem radio, an IDF spokesman announced that Air Force planes "attacked bases of the Iraq-backed Arab Liberation Front" both south and north of the Litani River. The radio reported that "a base of the Democratic Front north of the Litani and a base of the Syrian-backed As-Sa'iqah organization ... were also attacked" and that "Air Force planes also attacked terrorist targets at Beufort Castle." In an interview carried by Jerusalem television, Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori stated that the raid had been intended to serve as a "clear signal to the terrorists that shelling Israeli settlements would not be passed over without any reaction." The broadcast added that the deputy defense minister had explained that "over the last few months the IDF had followed a policy of preventive--not retaliatory--actions."

Syria

Al-Asad Message to Reagan--In a cable of congratulations to U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan, reported by Damascus radio, President Hafiz al-Asad expressed "hope" that the new president would be "successful in understanding the extent of the injustice done to the Palestinian Arab people." Paying tribute to the foundations "upon which the U.S. people built their independence and their liberation" and the "human principles they advocate," Al-Asad hoped that the United States will support these principles and that it will be an effective factor in reaching "a comprehensive peace really based on justice and fairness."

Bahrain

In a statement carried by the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, Foreign Minsiter Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah declared that since "it appears that Reagan will be a strong president--stronger than Carter," and will make "firm and resolute decisions on many issues" and since "we cannot say for certain whether Reagan will carry out his promises to Israel or amend his stance once he becomes president," the convening of an Arab summit "becomes more necessary" so as to "draw up a well defined statement that would take into consideration all the stands that could be taken by the U.S. Government under Reagan's leadership and lay down a specific approach for dealing with every stand." He asserted that this approach would be better than "being taken by surprise by new U.S. stands and reacting to them spontaneously." The foreign minister described President Carter's approach as a "failure" because it relied on "biased negotiators such as Robert Strauss and Sol Linowitz." The minister expressed the expectation that President-elect Reagn's approach to Camp David will differ from Carter's since that policy is Carter's "brainchild." The foreign minister added that it is necessary to hold a "logical and rational dialogue" with Reagan that will look toward the future rather than the past.

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REPORTAGE ON ARREST OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER QOTBZADEH

Defense Council Criticism

LD071728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Text] The following statement has been issued today by the Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council in connection with last night's program on the television's second network:

In the name of god, the compassionate, the merciful.

The circumstances of the war against the foreign mercenaries necessitate that we should put an end by any means to acts of selfishness and factionalism, which are undoubtedly the result of a lack of peity. The Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council has repeatedly called on the mass media to refrain from fanning the flames of personal and group differences so that in these sensitive circumstances, when one should more than ever ponder the destruction of the enemy, an effort should be made to prevent any diversion of public opinion from the questions of war to issues which are subject to differences.

Unfortunately, during last night's program on the second network Messrs Mohammad Mobaleghi Eslami and Sadeq Qotbzadeh, by putting forward divisive issues and by creating an atmosphere of anxiety and pessimism with regard to the responsible authorities in the nation and the country's media affairs, have created conditions for the Muslim and enemy-defeating nation of Iran that are conducive to anxiety.

We hereby wish to inform all those compatriots who in their direct contacts with us have called for an investigation into this problem that this staff is pursuing this matter and, through the country's judicial authorities, will take the appropriate measures in this respect.

Publicity Headquarters Statement

LD081834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1710 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Statement of the Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Following the imam's decree concerning the establishment of the Supreme Defense Council to provide leadership and publicity in connection with the war, the Publicity Headquarters of the Supreme Defense Council was set up in order to provide coordination in domestic and foreign publicity, so that by reporting correct and speedy news reports on the war fronts and coordinating the press and radio and television it could formulate appropriate programs to counter the bloodthirsty enemy. A requirement of such programs is solidarity and unity and avoiding strife and discord. It also aims to mobilize the Muslim and heroic Iranian people to respond to the enemy and protect and support the fighting forces of the Islamic revolution.

To achieve this, the Publicity Headquarters has taken the following measures:

1. Inviting the chief editors of the wide-circulation press to prepare the ground for understanding, based on Islamic strength, and to present the headquarters' policy, aimed at (?making use of) the press. Thiswas welcomed and supported by the journalists and, subsequently, the headquarters pursued this policy;

2. Avoiding censorship of war reports and stressing the need to keep the people informed about the realities of what is happening on the war fronts;

3. Emphasizing and supervising restraint in reporting combat information within new reports, so as to avoid making such information available to the enemy;

4. Avoiding publication of discordant articles and talks which would have a negative impact on public opinion, and which would distract the public's attention from the bloodthirsty enemy. In this regard, up till now, final warnings have been issued to ETTELA'AT, ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, KEYHAN and JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI; also, MARDOM was closed for a brief period for having published war information and insulting and mischievous articles, including some articles against Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh; and

5. Supervising radio and television programs aimed at strengthening the combative spirit, as well as strengthening the unity of the Islamic nation, including protesting against broadcasting interviews and discord-making and [word indistinct] talks, like the one carried on the evening of 7 November by the second television network.

From the beginning, this headquarters has been endeavoring to fulfill its revolutionary and Islamic duty, and, according to the imam's guidance, has been avoiding discrimination and fabrication. However, regrettably, some newspapers and individuals, while praising the headquarters' action when it exposes others' weaknesses, shout and protest when reference is made to their own mischievous activities and factionalism, and they level accusations against the headquarters.

As long as we are responsible for the headquarters, we shall remain faithful to our Islamic commitments. We are certain that the Islamic Iranism nation will not be deceived by these opportunistic and unvirtuous cries, and that, by following its imam, it will fight against any mischievous people, factionalism and political opportunism, particularly in these sensitive times.

AFP on Arrest of Qotbzadeh

NO080616 Paris AFP in English 0614 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Text] Tehran, 8 Nov (AFP)--Sadeq Qotbzadeh, former Iranian foreign minister, was arrested here yesterday on orders of the attorney general for allegedly having made "provocative statements" Thursday on television, the daily newspaper ISLAMIC REPUBLIC said today.

The arrest was confirmed by several of Mr Qotbzadeh's associates.

They said the arrest was made yesterday afternoon at his home by order of Attorney General Musavi Ardebili.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC said Mr Qotbzadeh's television statements dealt with "the situation of radio and television, revolutionary organizations and students following the line" of spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

Mr Qotbzadeh made his remarks in a television debate on Thursday night in which he declared: "People don't believe in the radio-television any more.

"They don't have to be treated as idiots like that. If that was the thing to do, the shah would have been the world's most successful person."

Mr Qotbzadeh also commented: "The radio-television insults people who say the hostages problem should be settled now.

"(But) today, every hour, it itself proclaims that the problem should be settled."

Of 10 people invited to take part in the television debate, only Mr Qotbzadeh and radio-television Deputy-Director Mohammad Mobalzleghiz Eslami accepted.

Mr Eslami has not been arrested, but the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC newspaper said today that proceedings would be taken against him.

Qotbzadeh Statement to Paris Radio

LD081922 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Excerpt] One asks oneself it, after Sadeq Qotbzadeh, it will not be the turn of President Bani-Sadr of Iran to end up in prison. Indeed, he has decided not to express himself any more on Iranian radio and television so long as it does not correct itself. It is complete censorship, he says, I can no longer write anywhere apart from the newspaper ISLAMIC REVOLUTION, but I do not know how long that will last.

As for Sadeq Qotbzadeh, he is now in prison. A long-standing comrade of Imam Khomeyni, the former minister of foreign affairs, who several times protested against the excesses of the purges and the prolonging of the detention of the hostages, this time attacked Iranian radio and television denouncing its conformism and its mediocrity. He no doubt thought he could break lances without too much difficulty--being a liberal--with his strictist opponents in the religious camp. Sadeq Qotbzadeh added that to cap it all the Iranian press was totally unaware of the international impact of its statements. He said this to us exclusively:

[Begin Qotbzadeh recording] It is true that unfortunately they (?ignore) the foreign press, and there are contradictory decisions by these mediocre figures who have taken over our government. As concerns the international press, unfortunately the people who are in the government, most of them have never been interested (?in the) foreign (?press), and consequently they have no awareness of the importance of the need for our cause to be heard. I think this is bad, and it is necessary to give them the possibility to learn this for themselves, but the present government, unfortunately, is totally unable to understand things like that. [end recording]

Bazargan Appeals for Qotbzadeh's Release

NC091058 Paris AFP in English 1050 GMT 9 Nov 80

[Text] Tehran, 9 Nov (AFP)--Mehdi Bazargan, Iran's provisional prime minister after the revolution, appealed today to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to free former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh, jailed on Friday for criticizing Iranian radio-television in a televised debate.

In an interview today with the MIZAN newspaper, Mr Bazargan described Mr Qotbzadeh's arrest as "curing toothache with a fist and a hammer." He added he had refused to believe first reports of the arrest.

The former prime minister appealed to the "revolutionary guide" to intervene and stop "similar attacks" immediately.

He described the arrest of Mr Qotbzadeh, "a fighter who is a former member of the Revolutionary Council, former radio-television director and former foreign minister," as a blow to the honour of Islam, the revolution and Iran.

Charging that the current "monopolistic" regime had not understood the "catastrophic consequences" their action would have on the Iranian people's "feelings of insecurity and fears for the respect of the country's Constitution," Mr Bazargan asked finally: "And what of the effect of this affair on the opinion of this world, where we hope to export our revolution?"

Deputies Protest Arrest

NC091426 Paris AFP in English 1411 GMT 9 Nov 80

[Text] Tehran, 9 Nov (AFP)--The ayatollah who launched the bloody "black Friday" demonstration against the shah, and two Iranian deputies protested firmly today over the arrest on Friday of former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh for critizing the country's broadcasting networks in a televised debate.

Ayatollah Allemeh Nuri told the MIZAN newspaper that if Mr Qotbzadeh's arrest were justified, "two thirds of the Iranian people" should be arrested on the same charge.

Speaking in parliament, Ghazan Farpur, a former director of the national broadcasting media, said that Mr Qotbzadeh was arrested for telling the truth, adding: "What he said was only a thousandth of the truth."

Interrupted by heckling, Mr Farpur said: "I have wanted to speak for a long while but I was not allowed to. You, the people, must know that in parliament, in this atmosphere, people are prevented from speaking."

Another deputy, 'Ali Naravi of Khorasan, demanded to know by which right the propaganda bureau of the Supreme Defence Council had arrested the former foreign minister.

Mr Naravi also listed a series of "violations of the Constitution" he said Iranian judicial authorities had made, charging notably that chief prosecutor Musavi Ardebili has no authority to appoint temporary directors of Iranian television as he did on Thursday.

The deputy also charged that people were being held "unjustifiably" in Iranian jails and cited "cases of torture" he said he had evidence of.

Mr Naravi cited the cases of Islamic-progressive leader Mohammed Reza Sa'adati, whose trial has been postponed three times, and of the spokesman for Mehdi Bazargan's provisional government after the revolution, Abbas Amir Entezam, arrested a year ago for "spying for America."

The deputy asked why, if the charges were true, the case had not yet been tried.

Mr Bazargan appealed today to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to intervene to free Mr Qotbzadeh, a companion of his days in exile in France.

AZADEGAN Denounces Qotbzadeh

NC091546 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 9 Nov 80

[Text] Tehran, 9 Nov (AFP)--The Moslem fundamentalist newspaper AZADEGAN today accused Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh, arrested following his call for freedom of the print and electronic media during a televised debate on Thursday, of "insulting the imam (Ayatollah Rohollah) Khomeyni and the revolution."

The newspaper, close to the fundamentalist Islamic Republican Party which holds most of the seats in the Iranian assembly, charged that Mr Qotbzadeh and deputy broadcast media director Mohammad Mobaleghi Eslami had moreover "discredited the major revolutionary propaganda organ which cannot be separated from the trend seeking to discredit the revolution."

"Following the arrest of these two men, it is necessary to continue in order to neutralise the fifth column of colonialism operating in the country," the paper added.

The AZADEGAN article, which carried a thinly-veiled condemnation of the newspaper ISLAMIC REVOLUTION (close to President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr), said that to remain silent following comments made during the televised debate would be equivalent to "remaining silent before the extensive activities of the fifth column of the United States.

RAJSANJANI DIRECTS MAJLIS MEETING ON VOICE AND VISION

LD091524 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Nov 80

[Excerpts] The Majlis held a public meeting today under Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani. The meeting began at 0830 with some verses from the Koran and then debate began on the second reading of a bill dealing with the operation of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Subsequently, the third article of the bill was passed.

According to our correspondent, the qualifications of representatives appointed by the three legislative branches are as follows:

A. Muslim, knowledgeable and (?obedient) to religious duties;

B. Belief in and commitment to the principle of jurisconsult, in accordance with the Constitution;

C. Full knowledge of domestic and foreign policies as well as current issues and international affairs; and

D. A good record.

Tehran Deputy Mo'infar then said: If everyone respected the Constitution in whatever position he holds, there would be no problem. Accordingly, if all organizations and individuals observe the principle of the division of powers, a great many of our existing problems would be solved. Referring to the appointment of a temporary supervisor to the Voice and Vision of Iran by the state public prosecutor, he said: The judicial power or the public prosecutor can under no condition appoint a supervisor for the Voice and Vision, for this is contrary to the law. Perhaps it would have been the Supreme Defense Council which should have solved the problem of the Voice and Vision. We ask the public prosecutor to rescind the order he signed and allow the Supreme Defense Council to handle this, if a temporary supervisor for the Voice and Vision is to be appointed, for the responsibility to handle the country's propaganda policy has been entrusted to this council by our leader.

In conclusion, he read out a letter addressed to the speaker of the Majlis which was signed by a number of MP's, and then submitted it to the Majlis.

Following some preagenda speeches by a number of MP's, the speaker of the Majlis, citing speeches made by Deputies Mo'infar and Naqavi about the situation in the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, said: To begin with, it is a policy of the Majlis to learn about these things.

The story is that from 23 September Mr. Farahi, supervisor of the radio and television, was appointed as Islamic ambassador to China. Having resigned from his post as supervisor of the radio and television, he appointed Mr. Mobaleghi Eslami [(Eslami debated with Qotbzadeh on television and, after the latter's arrest, is being sought by authorities] as acting supervisor, he then submitted his resignation to Mr. Musavi Ardebili, the public prosecutor. At this juncture, Mr. Musavi realized that no acting supervisor has been envisaged in the radio and television constitution. On the other hand, since Mr. Farahi had already tendered his resignation he could not, evidently, appoint an acting supervisor to succeed him. Subsequently. Ardebili raised the matter with Bani-Sadr. Meanwhile, Mr. Mobaleghi Eslami took a series of measures resulting in the dismissal and appointments of some personnel of the radio and television. In view of what went on, one ought to say that these dismissals and appointments do not comply with the law.

Having reviewed the matter, Mr. Musavi came to the conclusion that until such time when a permanent supervisor is appointed, no dismissals or appointments should have been made. Consequently, he asked Mr. Mobaleghi to avoid any dismissals or appointments for the time being, while he himself remained at the post; that the status quo should be maintained until a decision is made with regard to this legal problem. However, Mr. Mobaleghi refused to comply with the proposal and continued with his practice.

The speaker of the Majlis then added: During the early days of the Supreme Defense Council, when we still had no Constitution or regulations, we studied the issue in a meeting in Tehran in which five people took part. When we realized that some sort of chaos was emerging there we asked, in a letter addressed to Mr. Mobaleghi and signed by myself and Mr. Raja'i, that he reinstate those dismissed and appointed, to allow them to continue their work until new supervisors were appointed. But, again, this letter was ignored, and as noted in a letter which we read later, they had based their claim on the (?point) that since the meeting had no formality, the letter could have no bearing.

Having formulated regulations for the Supreme Defense Council--in a meeting held with six Supreme Defense Council members participating--it was decided to reiterate the matter to Mr. Mobaleghi to avoid making any changes in the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic. The speaker of the Majlis added: On 7 November Mr. Musavi Ardebili was received by the imam. The imam had already made certain points to him. The same day I met the imam, who told me: I have told Mr. Musavi that this gentleman who claims to be the supervisor has no legal backing, that he has no right to be there. Therefore, make the necessary arrangements and appoint some individuals temporarily to the radio and television, while the Majlis takes rapid measures to study the regulations governing the operation of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The imam also told me to take immediate steps to study the law governing the organization, for this is an important issue.

The speaker of the Majlis added that this is what happened, as far as he was concerned. Evidently, it is the right of both the people and the Majlis deputies to be kept informed about the issue. As for Mr. Musavi Ardebili, the state republic prosecutor, he must make more of an explanation available, so as to keep all our people informed. If anyone has made a mistake, such a mistake should be rectified so we can eliminate these issues which emerge at times.

AYATOLLAH ARDEBILI INTERVIEWED ON RADIO, TV DISPUTES

LD092254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 80

[(Interview with Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili, public prosecutor general, by unidentified radio reporter, on disputes among directors of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran--recorded; date not given.]

[(Excerpts)] Public Prosecutor General Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili declared in a radio and television interview: What I have done was according to the Constitution, not breaking the law. With the broadcast of this interview we conclude this newscast.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Following the Majlis' debate on changes that have taken place in the Voice and the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we have invited Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili, the public prosector general, to the studio in order to interview him.

[Question] Mr. Musavi Ardebili, would you kindly tell us your views on today's debates at Majlis on the issue of changes in the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to elaborate for a few minutes on the measures taken, then to give my views on what has been debated at the Majlis.

I deem it necessary to give this report, in order to inform the honorable people of Iran of the events.

A few days ago our brother the president, Mr. Bani-Badr, phoned me and told me that some disputes have emerged among the gentlemen [directors of the radio and TV] who had gone to see Mr. Bani-Sadr. After holding talks with the president they arrived at this agreement that someone on your behalf should go there and listen to what they had to say, someone impartial, and make a judgment. The president asked me to appoint someone and send him to the Voice and Vision.

I gave the topic some thought and came to the conclusion that my intervention perhaps was not necessary in that manner. Well, a dispute has emerged among colleagues which could be resolved by themselves. I said to myself: Should I decide to intervene in these affairs [words indistinct] then they would come and question as to why I intervened, to which I would not have a proper answer.

During the meeting which I had with my brother the president, [words indistinct] I told him and gave him the background to the dispute, and he agreed that what I had done was justifiable [words indistinct].

Following my return to the capital, I realized the events had taken a new course and the disputes had increased considerably.

At this stage, I felt intervention was becoming necessary in order to prevent a worsening of the situation. On behalf of the imam, too, I was given the directive to intervene in the affairs. I thought I had better tell Imam Khomeyni. [Words indistinct] yet he said that I should intervene and settle the issue. [words indistinct]

I recalled Mr. Mobaleghi and asked him once again [words indistinct] and communicated to him Mr. Bani-Sadr's view, telling him that our brother, Mr. Bani-Sadr, too, had agreed. Then I sent for those four [four other directors with whom Dr. Mobaleghi Eslami had a dispute] and told them. They too, said once again they agreed with the proposed plan, and were even ready to write their resignations as a guarantee for implementing the proposal.

Meanwhile, I heard that our brothers, Mr. Raja'i and Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani, too, had made some interventions, had asserted something [words indistinct]. I phoned both Mr. Rajai and Mr. Rafsanjani enquiring if they had been mediating and if the issue was about to be resolved, so I would no longer have to intervene. Both replied no, [words indistinct] adding that I should continue with my efforts.

I phoned Mr. Taqi Farahi, [appointed by President Bani-Sadr to the post of director general of radio and TV last June] who had been in the post before Mr. Mobaleghi [words indistinct].

Mr Farahi came to see me and I told him to go back to his post and continue with his work. We had a long conversation; he is an intelligent person. He declined, and suggested it would be better to install Mr Mohtashemi.

I told Mr Bani-Sadr of the outcome of my efforts and told him of my view that Mr Farahi should go back to his post, but that Mr Farahi had expressed the view that Mr Mohtashemi would be a more suitable candidate.

Mr Bani-Sadr replied that he, too, held the view that Mr Farahi should go back to his post, and we had to try to persuade him to go back to his post. Of course, the president did not have anything against Mr Mohtashemi, either.

Then the president told me he had arranged that I should first investigate and then make appointments, to which I replied: Not at all, and that in my view [words indistinct] that had been the issue and that he had given his support.

Later on I presented Imam Khomeyni with both my and Mr Farahi's views. [words indistinct.

Imam Khomeyni said: Very well. [passage indistinct]

The issue was about to be resolved when that controversial interview between our brother Mr Qotbzadeh and Mr Mobaleghi came about. Of course, I should say that in the afternoon of that day [words indistinct] phoned me telling me of the forthcoming interview, and I told Mr Farahi to tell Mr Mobaleghi not to embark upon this interview which would disturb the climate of opinion [words indistinct]. Mr Mobaleghi complained to me asking why I had communicated the advice through Mr Farahi and not direct to him. [words indistinct]

Finally, the controversial interview took place, in the course of which [words indistinct] to which I protested [words indistinct].

Therefore, on the basis of the duty which I had felt should be ours [words indistinct] and I, through the decision I had taken, to implement it as soon as possible. [passage indistinct]

After this, our brother the president phoned me and talked to me in a complaining tone, [words indistinct] saying OK, we discussed the appointment of Mohtashemi, but the other two appointments, [words indistinct].

[Question] Concerning the program of the interview which was broadcast on TV Channel 2, and of course, following which Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh was arrested and Mr Mobaleghi Eslami is being sought, I want to know whether this decree was issued by the prosecutor general of the country or not?

[Answer] No, in this issue the office of prosecutor general was not involved at all. This matter concerned the Revolution Court and we were later informed about it. The prosecutor general of the country was not (?involved in this issue).

[Question] Concerning the postponement in the trial of Mr Sa'adati [a member of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq group who is being tried on charges of spying for the Soviet Union], I would like to know if it has been with your approval or not?

[Answer] This was one of the issues which surprised me. In the newspapers it was written that Mr Sa'adati had written a letter to the prosecutor general of the country, and had requested that the trial should be postponed and the prosecutor general had agreed.

[Words indistinct] I have not received such a letter. Nobody has brought me such a letter, and neither should they bring such a letter to me; neither do I have any role there. This is for the Revolution Court to decide. I don't know what was the source of this mistake. The strange thing is that all the mass media say this. Of course, it is probable that he wrote a letter addressed to me and that this letter has not reached me and I know nothing of it, but that the court has seen the letter and has made a decision on its own. There can only be such a possibility. Apart from that, no I don't have any knowledge either of the letter, or of agreeing or disagreeing with it. [words indistinct] [end recording]

AFP: BANI-SADR NO LONGER TO SPEAK ON IRANIAN RADIO, TV

NC081549 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Text] Tehran, 8 Nov (AFP)--President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said in a press interview today that he had "decided to no longer speak on Iranian radio or television so long as they do not mend their ways."

In an interview publishedtoday in the newspaper ISLAMIC REVOLUTION, close to the president, Mr Bani-Sadr said: "There is only one newspaper left where I can write my daily notes, and I see that, with what is in the works, it, too, will be closed shortly to establish total censorship."

The president's statements followed the arrest yesterday of former Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh, who was jailed in Tehran's Evin Prison after making comments in a television debate on Thursday which criticized the lack of freedom of expression in Iranian broadcast media.

REPORTAGE ON 7-8 NOV KHOMEYNI ACTIVITIES

Address to Pakistani Pilgrims

LD072305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1712 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Speech made on the morning of 7 November by Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran in Tehran to 200 Pakistani pilgrims en route home from Mecca---recorded, duration 27 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. While thanking you for your presence here, I am happy that you succeeded in paying homage to Mecca.

According to a news dispatch filed a few days ago by some news agencies, Saddam Husayn raised a few points in a speech delivered at his illegal parliament, making nonsensical remarks to the effect that Persia is not Islamic, for the Koran was written in Arabic, that the prophet was Arab and that Islam belongs to Arabs. The logic presented by this pervert shows that he is uninformed about Islam. He is among those Arabs referred to by God Almighty, that it is beqter for such people not to know about God's decrees. According to this man who does not really believe in Islam, you gentlemen who were fortunate enough to go to Mecca are not Muslim, nor are all the world's Muslims in the West or East Muslim. Persians are not Muslim; Turks are not Muslim; Baluchis are not Muslim; Pakistanis are not Muslim; Muslims in India are not Muslim; Indonesians are not Muslim. Islam is simply confined to Arabs, people like 'Aflaq [founder of Ba'th Party], like Saddam and [word indistinct]. This is the logic of a man who knows nothing about Islam, nothing about the Koran.

The standard set by Saddam is Arabism, an Arabism encompassing 'Aflaq and Saddam and individuals like them. This is contrary to Islamic norms and Muslim requirements. This is what the superpowers want, that is, to create discord among various strata, cause strife between Arabs and non-Arabs. This is what they want: to create confrontation between Arabs and non-Arabs. They also want to cause discord between tribes among Arabs. As for the rest of Muslims, the superpowers intend to do the same.

These are the people [Saddam and 'Aflaq] who arrested some great Islamic ulema, both from the Sunnis and Shi'ites, and martyred them. These people have no notion of Islam, but are now claiming to be Muslim. He is one of those Arabs referred to by God Almighty [in the Korean] as having no knowledge about Islam and its aspects.

Why is it that the Muslims are ignoring what is taking place in Iran, the problems created for our country and, contrary to international and war regulations, the attacks made on residential areas, killing women and children? Why have they remained silent? God Almighty has ordered them to fight. Now, if they are not prepared to fight, then the least they can do is to make propaganda and not remain silent. Why have they [word indistinct] remained silent? Why have the Muslims remained silent, ignoring the fact that should, God forbid, the Islamic Republic be defeated in Iran, then it is Islam which will have been defeated? Why do they not understand that it is Islam which the superpowers are afraid of? [words indistinct] is because they are waiting to see Islam (?flourish) in other countries and witness the same thing which has happened in Iran take place in other places. What has happened to their [word indistinct] which has rendered them to stand by vis-a-vis the problems concerned with Islam and the reputation of Muslims? They have become bystanders.

We have no need for [word indistinct] and military aid; we shall (?defeat the enemy). However, it is regrettable to see Muslims remaining oblivious of these Islamic problems; they are oblivious of the holy Koran. [sentence indistinct]

Why do they not send their news agencies to see what problems have been created for Iran? Why is it that even if certain news agencies report these things, they do not broadcast it? [sentence indistinct] Do you think that it is simply a question of Iraq and Iran? A question of Saddam and Iran? This is not so. It is the question of Islam [words indistinct]. It is a question of all Islamic countries; it is a question of all oppressed peoples of the world.

What they want is to see discord among Muslims, so that they may rule them. They want to destroy all our young people; they want to turn our universities into colonial ones; they want to render our economy dependent; they want to render our army dependent. Their aim is not limited only to Iran; they have their eyes on all Muslim countries, on all countries which ought to remain under the domination of Islam. However, they realize that should one billion Muslims get together, given what happened as a result of an uprising by 35 million Iranians which dealt such a blow to them that they can no longer raise their heads, should one billion Muslims do the same thing, then things will happen. It is to prevent (?these things) that they bring about such wars. Why should Islamic governments remain so isolated and [word indistinct] Why should Islamic nations remain oblivious of Islamic social and political issues? Why should Islamic countries forget that it is Islam which must remain their objective, rather than Iran?

As for nations, they do pay attention; the question is the government; why do they not pay attention? How long should we and our governments remain under the domination of foreigners? How long should American and Soviet advisers govern us? How long are we to see a Soviet, a British or an American sergeant run our army? We expelled them; you must do the same thing. [words indistinct]

We have already put those who cause discord in Iran in their place and shall continue to do so. Other Islamic countries are also dutybound to arrest and expel those who create discord contrary to Islam, contrary to Koranic teachings and contrary to [word indistinct] Islam; they ought to annihilate them. Why are we sitting idly by? Why are the Muslims sitting by? Why do they not [word indistinct]? Why do they not rise against the oppressors? Why do the world's oppressed not rise against the oppressors?

American Blacks supported us, but a majority of Islamic governments did not support us. Nations everywhere supported us; Muslim nations everywhere supported us and condemned the usurping Iraqi Ba'thists, but governments did not follow suit. What has happened to these governments? Why should these [word indistinct] submit to the superpowers' oppression? Why should they treat their peoples in such a manner, while Muslims continue to stand by? Why should Muslims remain silent while such treatment is dealt to Iran? Are they waiting to see how we are destroyed one by one? Are they waiting for the next one's turn to come? This is a danger threatening Muslims. I warn Muslims and Islam against this danger, against the present position adopted by governments.

They resort to [word indistinct] and cause discord among you; they wage war between governments, while they reap the benefits. Why do you not study Islam and [word indistinct] Muslims? How long are we to remain under the domination of foreigners? How long are our countries to remain an arena for their onslaught? Why do the Muslims not wake up? It is [word indistinct] the Islamic governments; it is the Islamic governments which must wake up. Once these governments wake up, then Muslims' problems would be solved; they would reach an understanding. However, there are hands involved which do not allow this; they have agents who prevent this.

I pray to God Almighty to help all Muslims wake up and bring them under the flag of Islam [shouts of approval and "amen"]. I pray to God Almighty to unite all Muslims, so that they may correctly study Islamic problems and solve them among themselves. God bless you all.

Bani-Sadr, Khamene'i Briefings

GF071530 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Text] The leader of the nation and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, received President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council, this morning. They briefed Imam Khomeyni on the latest developments and the situation on the battlefronts.

Bani-Sadr on Meeting

LD071802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Text] Dr Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief, today met Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. After the meeting, Mr Bani-Sadr spoke about the topics raised in the presence of the imam, and said: During this meeting the issue of war was raised, and the imam was informed that our military forces are being built up and that they are being consolidated daily. Obviously, the enemy has entered the war, using all his forces; however, we are totally convinced of our victory.

The commander in chief of the Islamic armed forces added: We have thwarted the enemy attacks in key areas and are engaged, at the same time, in mobilizing more forces.

At present, the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces' equipment, quantitatively, is three times more than the equipment it had at the beginning of the war. As for their quality, the armed forces are dozens of times stronger. The president emphasized: Iran's moral and combat capability have improved tremendously and are still being improved. We (?believe) that within the next 2 weeks this figure [as heard] shall double. Consequently, the issue of war is not an issue concerned with this or that particular place; the issue of war is a broad issue, meaning that the enemy should be rendered helpless and then vanquished and this is precisely what we are doing.

In another part of this interview, the president, while citing the high morale of the Islamic armed forces in their war against the Ba'thist infidels, said: Yesterday, the airborne helicopters attacked an enemy engineering unit, engaged in road construction, and destroyed the entire enemy unit. Even considering that the landing of helicopters under these circumstances is extremely difficult, the Islamic armed forces' helicopters landed in the area. One of the Iranian pilots at this point realized that one of the enemy lying on the ground was still alive. The pilot signaled to him to get up. However, the man got up and, drawing his dagger, attacked the Iranian pilot. The pilot succeeded in killing him and collected some secret documents being carried by the enemy.

According to one of the documents dealing with the enemy casualties, last Friday the Iraqi Ba'thist forces during their assault on Dezful suffered 800 deaths. The enemy also suffered three times this figure in wounded personnel. Referring to another document collected from the Ba'thist infidels, the president said: Another document concerned the enemy's supply and military personnel shortages. It shows that, should we continue our operations as we have done, then the enemy will become helpless. The commander in chief of the Islamic armed forces added: Obviously, war is a difficult problem, but our people have lived under such difficulties for centuries and shall continue to put up with them, until such time when we become victorious. The president emphasized: We are totally convinced of victory: I told the imam not to have any worry at all. The imam said: I, too, am convinced that we shall be victorious.

Meeting With Montazeri

GF081345 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Text] The eminent jurisconsult Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri met with the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, this afternoon. PARS has learned that they discussed the situation in the country in general and the situation on the battlefronts in particular. They also discussed the situation of those who have been dispersed as a result of the war between the Ba'thist agents in Baghdad and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meeting With Beheshti

LD081750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1636 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Text] Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court, was received this evening by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After his meeting with the imam, Ayatollah Beheshti spoke to a PARS correspondent, and in reply to a question as to what issues were raised with the imam, said: I presented the imam with a report on my 10-day inspection of cities near the frontlines. I also had my own observations and studies which required seeking the imam's views.

In reply to our correspondent's question about his views on the situation at the frontlines, Ayatollah Beheshti said: So far as my own assessment of reports and information as well as my own observations are concerned, the situation on the battlefronts seems to be better than I had heard. I see a brighter horizon.

In reply to another question about stopping and preventing existing and future discords as well as contradictions which might emerge (?among) us, he said: One of the problems raised was this very issue. I believe if we try to explain issues clearly to the people and if we have the officials debate and resolve the problems clearly, then it will help people to feel more secure. During this trip, having made numerous speeches, I realized how useful this method could be in creating calm and peace among the people. Such speeches could even justify logical differences of views to the people. As for the people, they, too, want the officials to debate their logical differences in a rational and reasonable manner among themselves.

REPORTAGE ON ACTIVITIES OF PRESIDENT BANI-SADR

Chairs Defense Council Meeting

LD071749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council held a meeting this evening under Dr Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief, and with the participation of Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, the acting joint chief of staff, the minister of defense and the commander of the air force, the commander of the Revolution Guards Corps and the commander of the ground forces. The meeting was held in Tehran.

According to PARS, at the meeting, which began at 1700 today and which is still going on, the general situation on the battlefields and the operations of the revolutionary fighters against Saddam's mercenaries were discussed.

Authorizes Charity Bank Account

LD081752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Text] According to PARS, in a letter to Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i last night, President Bani-Sadr informed him that he may make personal use of bank account No 888, opened to help the victims of the war in the south and west of the country.

Meets With Military Commanders

LD082152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Text] According to a PARS correspondent, Dr Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief, held a meeting tonight in one of the towns in Khuzestan with the participation of Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, the commander of the ground forces, and a number of other military commanders. In this meeting they studied reports dispatched from various fronts, the general situation in various battlefronts and the strategy of the revolution's fighters in their confrontation with the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries.

Meeting With Pilots in Khuzestan

LD082150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Text] According to PARS, Dr Bani-Sadr, the president and commander in chief, this afternoon met and conferred with a group of pilots, who during their missions today dealt heavy losses on the enemy and killed a great many of the enemy troops.

The meeting took place in a town in Khuzestan. Emphasizing that resistance will always bear fruit, the president is reported to have said: In the beginning our army's situation was not similiar to that of Iraq's, whose forces were ready from the start to go into war. We prepared our forces one by one and went into war. However, we did possess something which the enemy was lacking, and that was that our army was fighting on the basis of belief and faith, with its heart and its being. Our army wanted to defend its homeland.

In another part of his remarks, the president said: We must organize our forces and send them to the battlefield, for we do not receive any weapons from America, Russia or any other country; rather, we must repair whatever we have and deploy it. We have done just that, and, thank God, our ground forces now possess three times the equipment, and possibly more, as compared with the beginning of the war.

The report sent by PARS adds that during this meeting a number of airmen, officers and helicopter experts commented on the heroic missions undertaken by pilots and the committed members of the helicopter maintenance crew. In this connection, one of the officers said: The weather was so bad this morning that no one expected our helicopters to be able to take off. However, our pilots could not restrain themselves, for they had learned that the enemy forces were planning to advance. Therefore, they took off and inflicted heavier blows on them than they could possibly imagine.

Discusses Battle Situation

LD091748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 80

[Text] Dr Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, continuing his visit to Khuzestan Province, had several meetings this afternoon with Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, commander of the ground forces, and a number of the commanders of the battle fronts in which he studied the reports which had been received from various fronts and discussed the general situation at the fronts and the operations of the revolutionary fighters confronting the mercenary Iraqi forces.

RAFSANJANI SPEAKS TO MAJLIS ON SUPPORT FROM ARAB STATES

GF091610 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Nov 80

[Text] The Islamic Consultative Majlis held an open session at 0800 today under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani.

In regard to the recent statement by the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the traitorous war imposed upon the Islamic Republic of Iran by Iraq, the Majlis speaker said: you must have heard the wonderful, legitimate and just statement made by our brother Hafiz al-Asad, the president of the revolutionary Republic of Syria, on the war imposed on Iran. We expect such statements from truthful revolutionaries.

Fortunately, Libya, Syria and Algeria, which enjoy distinctive revolutionary and Islamic positions among the Arab and Islamic countries, have defined their stand on the Islamic revolution. It is also fortunate that the positions and stands of some of the suspect princes in certain of the sheykhdoms along the Persian Gulf have been defined. We do not see any reason to offer thanks to our revolutionary Muslim brothers in Libya, Syria and Algeria, because they have acted according to their revolutionary and Islamic obligations. They have truly showed their support for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran because they are marching along the path which will lead to the extinction of Israel and Arab reaction in the region. They have supported us by virtue of their continuous revolutionary march.

He added: The world must realize the falseness of the trumpets blown by the agent Ba'thist regime in Iraq, which accuses Syria of planning to attack Iraq from the north with the intention of occupying it.

We are glad for the stands which support the legitimacy of our stand in the region. We hope that our revolutionary Muslim brothers in the Arab and Islamic countries will continue along this path in order for the methods of the Islamic revolution to succeed in the region and throughout the world.

REPORTAGE ON ACTIVITIES ON PRIME MINISTER RAJA'I

Return to Tehran From Lorestan

GF071706 Zahedan International Service in Urdu 1530 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Text] Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, returned to Tehran from Lorestan Province last night.

Chairs Cabinet Session

LD082154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2111 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, the Cabinet held a session tonight with Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, the prime minister, in the chair.

During the meeting, which was held at the Prime Ministry, topics concerning the war and the ways and means of helping compatriots who have suffered as a result of the war were discussed and reviewed, and certain decisions were made.

Interview on Purges, Other Issues

LD092116 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 80

[Interview with Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Raja'i by an unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran following 8 November meeting of the Cabinet in Tehran--recorded]

[Text] [Question indistinct]

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. You know that in each Cabinet meeting some time is spend discussing the resolutions which (?the Majlis has approved). [Words indistinct] One special topic which was discussed tonight was the issue of sending relief to our compatriots in the south and west of the country who are involved in the war. From the beginning of the war this matter has received attention, but recently this matter is being taken more seriously. The Red Crescent is involved as well as the relief committee of the imam and the crusade for reconstruction, the guards corps and many such organizations. All of them are busy helping our compatriots who are involved in the war. By making use of account No 888 which had been previously opened by the president, the government collects the cash donations of the people. Tonight, the Cabinet approved that if companies donate to account 888 in this connection, their donation will be regarded as part of their expenses.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] As you know, usually, since the revolutionary organizations are (?closer to the revolution), they start much earlier and are ahead of others. When we go to the fronts, we see their successes, which are quite evident. Their only problem is that their contribution is not very obvious, contrary to the Red Crescent, because the Red Crescent has organizations and their assistance can be seen and their achievements are quite clear. However, the revolutionary organs carry out emergency and necessary assistance as they are free from organization and formalities. On the whole, all of them have been successful. They need a large number of blankets, overcoats, gloves and such things. I urge the manufacturers of such items to produce as many as they can and increase their level of production because this is an additional consumption.

Whoever had a blanket or a covering left it behind when he fled his house. These have to be bought in the open market and this may disrupt the balance between consumption and production. I hope our friends who produce such items will have a greater feeling of responsibility and produce more of these items so that we can provide them for our compatriots.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] One issue is the issue of legality and the other issue is the question of being qualified for continuing the job. From a legal point of view, the verdicts which have been issued following 28 August 80 as far as the question of salary and bonuses is concerned this matter can be studied and is illegal. [sentence as heard] However, the question of the continuation of work is a different matter. If someone is not qualified to do something according to the guidelines which have been set forth by the Revolution Council and which are respected by the Islamic Republic, he can be told not to continue doing this job and to do something else or not to work at all. Receive your salary, but until the government finds you a better place to work, you are exempt from doing this job. For instance, if someone's qualifications for teaching are suspect, he will no longer teach until his position has been clarified, but he can received his salary and bonuses. From a legal point of view he is not guilty, but the question of qualification is something which has nothing to do with the issue of purges. Those people whom we have announced should not continue their work should not engage in that job, but so long as they have not been found guilty they can receive their salaries and bonuses.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] These are two separate issues. One is the committee in charge of the purges which works in accordance with what the government and the Revolution Council have defined. The other issue is the committee of purges which has penetrated the Ministry of Education and Training from outside. We have announced that from now on--from a long time past--they should stop their activities. However, the Ministry of Education and Training can never (?ignore) the question of purges, because the issue of education and training is not something that you can leave alone and wait for another time, when the issue of purges has been decided. We should announce that the question of the Ministry of Education and Training is not always connected with politics and the regime, because the relationship with the regime does not continue forever. It is always possible that someone's qualifications for teaching may be suspect. No matter what [word indistinct], headmaster or responsible organization may say this, you can say it is a question of purging; but this is different from the previous definition of purging. Therefore, one should bear in mind that this does not have the former definition of purging, which we called counterrevolutionary. Now we take into account the question of suitability for holding a position.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Yes, both last night and today we asked him [presumably Bani-Sadr] to reply, but so far he has not been able to. In addition to the minister of foreign affairs, I have also introduced ministers for commerce and education and training. (?We are waiting) for him to reply.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] As far as I know, the question of making propaganda use of the Supreme Defense Council does not enjoy the approval of Mr Bani-Sadr. Even the official in charge of propaganda who is in touch with the Defense Council participates in the Supreme Defense Council, although he does not vote.

He is present there so that he can actively be informed of the issues which are discussed in the Defense Council. However, in connection with the issue that Mr Bani-Sadr has his doubts--this is due to the punishment which has been given to newspapers. He has doubts concerning the number of members who make a quorum in meetings. Probably on Monday this matter will be made more clear.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] Yes it is so--both radio and television as well as the newspapers. But, I repeat, the issue of doubt only concerns the punishment of the newspapers, because in that meeting we decided that, bearing in mind the war situation that we are facing, if a newspaper again wrote divisive matters or wrote certain things which are not in the interests of our society in connection with the war, that newspaper should be punished. It is this matter which is being doubted.

Interview With Lebanese Papers

GF100759 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Nov 80

[Text] Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, granted an interview to correspondents of the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR and magazine AL-MUSTAQBAL last week and answered their questions on the causes of the war that has been imposed on Iran by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, the conditions for agreeing to a cease-fire and holding talks, the Arab peoples' attitude toward the Iranian-Iraqi war, the issue of the American spy hostages and other issues.

Raja'i was asked: Saddam claims that the reason for the outbreak of the war was Iran's failure to implement the 1975 agreement. What is your view?

The prime minister answered: If this is what Saddam claims then he is condemning himself by his own words. The agreement does not state that either of the two parties has the right to bomb the other's country, cities and the homes of its innocent citizens with shells and rockets if it violates the agreement.

Raja'i was then asked: Saddam says he asked several times to enter into talks on the 1975 agreement, but nothing happened. How true is this claim?

The prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran answered: Suppose this claim is true. On the basis of this agreement, Saddam claims a 320 sq km piece of land. If he had been sincere in his claim he would have limited himself to attacking the equivalent of this area instead of attacking the entire southwestern section of the country and bombing our people at night with surface-to-surface missiles.

MINISTER NABAVI ANNOUNCES RATIONING OF GOODS

LD091354 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Nov 80

[TExt] Essential goods needed by the people are to be rationed and put at the disposal of the people through coupons. This was announced by Behzad Nabavi, minister of state in charge of executive affairs, in a press conference.

He began by saying: After each war there are usually important issues to be dealt with, one of which is the reduction in the income and production sources of the country. The minister of state in charge of executive affairs then elaborated on the methods employed by the government in facing these problems and said: The government's general approach is that production should increase and that public consumption should be reduced. Of course, the reduction in consumption would come about through rationing of goods and their just distribution and omitting nonessential goods.

Also, the government seriously intends to increase its income, considering the interests of the lower paid classes, by making use of the extra incomes of the higher income groups and cutting down its own expenditure. Nabavi added: In the implementation of the economic independence of the country, the government intends to adhere to the policy of reducing imports to the needed minimum--be it in the private or the public sector.

He then elaborated on the functions of the economic mobilization headquarters and said: This headquarters has taken the necessary measures to ration the essential commodities and has up to now succeeded in justly distributing all kinds of fuel. In a few days, the distribution of sugar and sugar cubes will be rationed. In this connection, special coupons have been prepared which will be sold at the different branches of the Saderat Bank of Iran. The minister of state in charge of executive affairs added: In the near future, in order to economize on the rate of electricity consumption, electricity will be rationed, too.

About the price of sugar and sugar cubes, he said: The consumption of these two commodities will be divided into two different classes of essential and nonessential consumption. The price of sugar consumed by the people which was sold at the rate of 23 rials per kilo to the retailers, will be reduced to 20 rials per kilo. Retailers will sell the sugar at the rate of 24 rials per kilo. By the same token, the price of sugar cubes which was 27 and 1/2 rials per kilo for the retailers, has been reudced to 24 and 1/2 rials per kilo and the retailers are dutybound to sell it at the rate of 29 rials--when the consumer presents a coupon. He said the price of sugar for nonessential usage like beverages, confectionary and chocolate will be 58 rials per kilo. The minister of state in charge of executive affairs added: What is obvious is that our country should come out of its present state, which is a consumer-based country with a dependent and a single-commodity economy. At present the rate of sugar and sugar cube consumption in our country is comparable to Europe and the United States and about 13 times higher than the rate of consumption per person in Afghanistan, and five times the consumption per person in India.

The minister of state in charge of executive affairs also said: Government income sources should be increased and one of the ways to increase the government's income is to rely on internal sources, such as an increase of the price of some commodities and nonessential goods. He said: In this connection, the government will increase the price of fuel used by the private cars, but the price of fuel used for public transport and motorcycles--which are generally used by the oppressed classes--will remain unchanged. He added: From next week on the price of ordinary gasoline will be 30 rials per litre and the super-grade gasoline will be 40 rials per litre for private cars. This will be equal to the price this commodity costs. Also, the minister of state in charge of executive affairs warned that artificial price rises will be severely stopped and profiteers will be dealt with according to the special regulations applying to wartime conditions.

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON IRAQI CAPTIVITY OF OIL MINISTER

LD071308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Text] The following statement was issued by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran today in connection with the danger threatening the life of the Iranian oil minister:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Our brother, Mohammad Javad Tondguyan, the oil minister of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who was kidnapped by the Iraqi Ba'thist aggressive mercenaries near Abadan's oil installations, according to reports by international news agencies and the Iraqi paper AL-JUMHURIYAH, is in danger of losing his life and is suffering from severe bleeding.

The Iraqi Ba'th government, after the passage of several days, now claims that Tondguyan was wounded when he was captured. This ridiculous claim is being made in circumstances when the world television services, including several regional television services and Paris television have shown a film made in Baghdad in which Brother Tondguyan is shown as being completely healthy. Therefore, from the standpoint of the Iranian Government, it is patently clear that Baghdad's vile regime has subjected the oil minister of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to such torture that now his life is in danger, so much so that Baghdad's Ba'thists have been forced to concoct yet another lie and have announced that they cap :red him when he was wounded.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran holds the Baghdad government responsible for the life of Mohammad Javad Tondguyan and his self-denying companions and the Baghdad regime is duty bound to immediately release the Iranian oil minister and, undoubtedly, the competent international authorities, including the International Red Cross, by reexamining Baghdad's propaganda films, could easily recognize the ludicrous nature of this new claim by Baghdad and, in accordance with the duties which they have agreed to perform, they should intensify their efforts as soon as possible for the release of Tondguyan and his companions.

Appeal for Red Cross, UN Intervention

LD091830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1652 GMT 9 Nov 80

[Text] The following statement was issued today by the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

In the name of God: Following the abduction of Mr Mohammad Javad Tondguyan, the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his entourage by the Iraqi Ba'th mercenaries, the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken the following measures:

1. The Iranian permanent delegation to the United Nations is being asked [words indistinct] that the International Red Cross ought to carefully investigate Iraq radio's claim that Mr Tondguyan has been injured, because it seems that he has been subjected to torture. Meanwhile, the International Red Cross has been informed that the Iraqi forces do not refrain from all kind of insults and insolence against the Iranian prisoners of war and that the Red Cross must take appropriate action concerning this.

2. While informing the Iranian mission at the United Nations in New York of the above, the mission has been ordered to inform the mass media of the above information through the release of statements.

3. The International Red Cross representative in Tehran was called to the Foreign Ministry and the above information was given to him. The Foreign Ministry has asked for an immediate investigation concerning Mr Tondguyan and his entourage.

We hereby inform the public that according to the latest information received from the Iranian mission at the United Nations in New York, Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations secretary general, has disscussed the issue with the Iraqi foreign minister, asking the Iraqis for the release of Mr Tondguyan and his entourage and has expressed the hope that the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and his entourage will be released as soon as possible.

KHAMENE'I DELIVERS FRIDAY SERMON ON FIGHT AGAINST U.S.

LD072036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1515 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Friday sermon delivered by Tehran Friday Imam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in the Tehran University mosque--recorded]

[Excerpts] Throughout history, there has always been war, conflict and struggle between the two currents of good and evil. This is not characteristic of our present age only.

There are two important issues in our current situation. The first issue is the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran versus the forces of world imperialism. Our main enemy these days are the superpowers, headed by U.S. imperialism, which is sparing no effort to pounce upon our Islamic revolution.

The first point is: What is our position vis-a-vis America? Sixteen years ago, at the beginning of this struggle, our imam clearly said: The American President should know that he is the most hated and the most rejected person in the eyes of our nation. This remark defined the anti-American character of our revolution. Since the beginning of the revolution, and up till now, I can emphatically claim that no nation and no government has fought against America as much as our nation and those in charge of the administration of our country. All these anti-American slogans uttered by our people and all these crushing actions which our government and our executive organs have carried out since the first day after the revolution up till now, which have delivered such heavy blows upon world-devouring America, are unprecedented in the world.

The issue of the hostages and the issue of the change of American leadership give rise to the question--at least in the minds of some people--what is the policy of the Islamic Republic vis-a-vis America? Does the attempt of the Islamic Consultative Assembly to solve the issue of the hostages mean that there has been a change in the policies of the Government of the Islamic Republic and the executive organs vis-a-vis America or not? The answer is: No. In the same way that one day with the very fact of the taking of hostages we brought shame and disgrace upon the impenetrable and dominant policies of America in the eyes of the world, in a similar way by discussing the issue of the hostages as it was discussed in the Islamic Consultative Assembly we continue the same line and the same movement.

Today the world knows and understands that the Iranian nation, whose representatives reached a decision in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and the Iranian Government, which is itself elected by the people and which follows and implements the decisions and laws set out by the Consultative Assembly, has had something right and legitimate to say about the hostages, and that the hostages and America's spying organization in Iran constitute documentary condemnation of America's policies during the past 30 years as well as during the period between the revolution and the occupation of the den of espionage, and condemnation of the positions it has taken toward Iran.

With certainty and confidence we exposed the issue of the hostages to the world. This means that we exposed and demonstrated one more page from the black file of the ruling Americans in the eyes of the world. In the issue of hostages our view--that is the view of the Iranian nation--has been to present America to the world as an aggressive power which interferes in the internal affairs of the nations which it wants to keep under its control. We did this, and with our latest action, setting out the conditions for the release of the hostages which were decided by the Islamic Consultative Assembly, we have again proved our legitimate rights.

This does not mean the end of our war against American arrogance, because so long as there is arrogance and tyranny and the greed of the great powers there will also be struggle against these powers. [shouts of "God is great" and "Khomeyni is the leader"]

No nation can claim that it has proved and demonstrated its will and dedication in confronting America as much as we have done. We shall continue to fight against America, because America is tyrannical, because it is arrogant, because it is a world-devourer, because it is against Islam, because it is against our independence and the independence of all the oppressed nations, because it uses its material power to suppress in their throats the shouts of the nations seeking their rights. Because America is like this we shall struggle against it; and a nation can struggle.

The American agents and the rotten remnants of the mercenaries of the defunct SAVAK are still among our nation. They raise the question: How can you fight against America? With what strength, with what power? The answer is that America is not an invincible power. Great powers try to show themselves as invincible in the eyes of weak nations and this is the secret of their success. We have broken this myth and we shall break it again.

Last year, the imam said in his historic statement that Carter should look for another job, for his administration and rule were over. You saw how Carter's rule indeed came to an end. The imam has often reiterated that the U.S. empire is on the brink of collapse and nearing its end.

And this is exactly the second issue and topic of discussion in our relations with the United States, this change of U.S. policy along with the change of the principle figures of the American Government.

Carter will leave, another person will take his place. From the Iranian nation's point of view, the United States, imperialism, oppressor and oppression, and the diabolical power of the arch-Satan, there is no difference between Carter and Reagan. [shouts of "God is great"]

With the new election and by electing a new president the United States has in fact got much closer to the end of its power. Of course, the general policies of the two parties are the same. The activities of these two parties are based on the principle of the economic and political expansionism of the U.S. empire, the difference between these two parties is like the difference between the hypocrite and the infidel. The first one was a hyprocrite who in the name of the defense of human rights actually suppressed basic human rights. But this one is plain blasphemy.

The adviser to the new U.S. President is a former chief of the terrible U.S. spying organization, the CIA. And this is enough to disgrace this government. Openly supporting racial discrimination, openly supporting Zionism, he is an open defender of the isolated and hated regimes of the world. This is a policy which ensures for the U.S. Government definite defeat. [chants of "God is great"] With its failures and frustrations on the political scene and with the defeat inflicted on it in connection with the Islamic revolution in Iran, and the damage that its international prestige has suffered and the end of the myth of its invincibility in confronting the weak nations, the United States is more vulnerable today. The blows which the Republican Party and its President-elect have suffered as a result of these dead policies will determine the future of America. [chants of "God is great"]

Therefore, I should conclude on this first issue, concerning the enemy and the issue of the infidel and the wrong which we are confronting and fighting: The situation has not changed at all.

We have to frighten these enemies of God and the arch-Satan and the great enemy of God with our power and sufficient preparedness. This was the first issue. [chants of "God is great]

The second issue pertains to the armed forces and the preparation of strength. Nowadays, there are some questions on people's minds to which answers are not given. Therefore, I am giving you today briefly the real view of the revolution, which is the view of this nation's imam and the view of all the elements who have followed the imam's line.

The armed forces are one of the forces which we must have to confront a power. From the first day of the revolution some people were chanting slogans for the dissolution of the armed forces. They held the view that this army ought to be dissolved. It could have been difficult for us to prove to everyone that that cry was a cry hostile to the Islamic revolution. Those advocating the dissolution of the armed forces were pretending to support the revolution.

Yet, today the entire Iranian people can easily understand that the person advocating the dissolution of the armed forces today is a supporter of the defeat of Iran's Islamic revolution, and one of the mercenaries of the American Ba'thist. They wanted no armed forces to exist. They wanted, on the pretext of creating a people's armed forces, to dismember and eliminate our united armed forces which consisted of the members of this nation and the children of this people, so that we would not have this strength at our disposal.

The first person to understand this problem and to speak about it was the imam himself. He said that the army should not be disbanded. It should be committed and directed toward the right course. The army should close ranks with the people and both should march on the same path. All this has been accomplished.

Of course, the armed forces, like any other organ created in the context of the past corrupt satanical era, needed purging and clearing out. This too was implemented.

I am telling you for your information, that our armed forces are not very far from becoming ideological armed forces. Committed and faithful elements are found in abundance in our armed forces. There are plenty of ready and [word indistinct] elements in the armed forces. And this is a source of honor for Islam, of pride for the revolution's basic line and for the imam personally. [chants of "God is great"]

Powerful armed forces mean armed forces with several qualities. First of all, they should have unity, discipline and sufficient training and arms. The armed forces need these and ought to be provided with them. The level of training in the armed forces ought to get higher and higher. Military equipment ought to be provided for the armed forces.

During those early days, the Americans tried to get back some of the remaining equipment which was at our disposal. The equipment which was created in Iran at their mercenary hands for the purpose of hostility to Islam fell into the hands of Islam by the direction of God Almighty. They wanted to get back this equipment from the Islamic Republic and Islam. This was countered through the vigilance asserted by officials.

Today, too, the armed forces must remain as powerful as possible by means of unity and discipline, with a firm command and composed of pure, authoritative elements.

The second [word indistinct] needed by our armed forces is as broad relations with the people as possible. People ought to treat the armed forces as part of themselves, and the armed forces should also consider themselves the people's brothers and servants, and should be proud of this. [chants of "God is great"]

MONTAZERI CRITICIZES INDECISIVENESS OF ARMY COMMANDERS

LD072023 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent's dispatches from all over the country Friday's unifying congregational prayer ceremonies were held in a particularly grand style with the participation of large crowds of the zealous, combatant Muslim people of our Islamic country of Iran, in most provincial cities and towns.

Today's Friday congregational prayers in Qom were held under the leadership of His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri. At today's unifying prayers His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri, after counseling piety and the need to observe God's injunctions and interpreting the Koranic chapter "Al-'Adiyat," referred to one of the wars in which Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, together with a small number of self-denying and pious men, triumphed over 12,000 discord sowers and infidels. He then said: Now that this war has been imposed on us, thanks be to God, we do possess sufficient force. Our army and guards corps enjoy extraordinary preparedness for defending the country and attacking the enemy. Then why are our affairs moving ahead so sluggishly? Various sectors of the people come to see me and complain about this sluggishness. This is because they know that sufficient reserves of war materiel exist in the depots, but the responsible authorities and war commanders cannot make firm decisions. Or is it that--God forbid--this is deliberate? All these (?issues) should be investigated. The army commander should, in accordance with the imam's command, act with greater decisiveness and should break the encirclement of Khuninshahr and Abadan and with a lightning assault should rid the people of Khuzestan and Kordestan of the evil of the infidel Ba'th agents. But if they are weak and incapable then they should say so candidly so that the imam himself would directly make decisions.

In conclusion, the illustrious canonist, His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri, sharply condemned the French police's attack on the students who had staged a sitin inside the UNESCO building, saying: Our revolutionary nation does not expect the French Government, which has claims to liberalism, to turn into an agent for carrying out the designs of U.S. imperialism in the West.

He then sharply criticized the arrest of the (?strugglers) and Shi'ites [word indistinct] and Cairo's Friday imam by the Egyptian regime and warned the regimes in power in Egypt and Saudi Arabia to heed the lesson of the fate of the traitor Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and not to subject the Muslim nation to all this oppression. The nations want to remain free and seek refuge with Islam.

AFP: HOSTAGES STILL NOT HANDED OVER TO GOVERNMENT

NC080856 Paris AFP in English 0851 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Text] Tehran, 8 Nov (AFP)--The "Islamic students" holding the American hostages have still not handed them over to the Iranian Government, sources close to Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i said today.

The students "following the line of the imam (Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni)" had announced last Monday during a visit to the ayatollah that they were handing responsibility over to the government for the 49 hostages they are holding in several parts of the country.

Three other hostages are being held by the Foreign Ministry.

The sources added that one reason why the transfer had not been carried out "might be" that the hostages are scattered throughout Iran.

The students have said the hostages were moved from the American Embassy here after the abortive American raid to free them last April 25.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI EDITORIAL VIEWS REAGAN'S ELECTION

JN091026 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 9 Nov 80

[Text] JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI carried an editorial yesterday under the headline "Death to Carter, Death to Reagan." Here is the text of the editorial:

At last, the results of the elections in the United States announce Reagan's triumph with 51 percent of the votes.

The election results pose the following question in the political arena: With Reagan's election as U.S. president, what policy will the Islamic Republic of Iran adopt? Will the results of these elections be [word indistinct] and a change in U.S. policy toward the Islamic Revolution in Iran? JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI adds: One month ago, following the first round of U.S. elections [as heard], Cuban President Fidel Castro, in a press interview, had warned about the possibility of Reagan's election as U.S. president. Castro described Reagan's election as a catastrophe for the world in general and for the Third World, the Middle East and Iran in particular.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI adds that Reagan's statements show that he is one of the most intransigent opponents of the policy of flexibility with regard to making peace with Iran and handling international issues. Diplomatic quarters for or against Reagan describe him as a harsh, violent and [word indistinct] man.

From the beginning of the U.S. elections, President-elect Ronald Reagan has been presented to the American voter and to world public opinion as a man who will try, through reliance and concentration on U.S. military power, to develop the framework of the U.S. imperialists' expansionist policy toward the world. He has also been presented as a man who will work to establish new U.S. military bases throughout the world and increase the U.S. military budget at all costs.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI says: All these qualities attributed to Reagan by political observers are true and undeniable, we believe that [words indistinct] and the imperialist onslaught directed against the oppressed people in the world are not characteristics that are inherent in Reagan alone. Reagan's fathers, ancestors and all U.S. politicians and rulers, and those who are within their sphere of influence, maintain the same course that Reagan has adopted. They, too, are known for their inhumanity, for which Reagan is famous. We have our doubts about the U.S. elections and what is said about free elections in the United States.

The U.S. Government can support, protect and direct world monopolies and big capital through its close relations with financial quarters and the big multinational companies, relations which determine the economic fate of the country; can devalue its national currency and that of any other country it wishes; is capable of carrying out bloody coups d'etats to topple governments hostile to it; and possesses the largest, most complex and sophisiticated espionage apparatus in the world. Thus, it knows very well whom to choose as president of the United States in order to protect the big powers' interests in general and those of the United States in particular. In other words, the opinion of the people is worthless.

That's why we do not consider Reagan's election as some kind of victory or defeat that has been achieved in an honest manner. We consider his election as just an ordinary forgery.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI adds: The exposure of the so-called human rights policy championed by Carter on the international level, the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran and its ideology in all its dimensions and the war imposed by the small agent of imperialism, Saddam Husayn, have all certainly proved to the world, to the progressive forces and to the people who seek liberation that the so-called human rights policy championed by Carter was just another maneuver and another method used by world imperialism.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI says: Although we do not view imperialism from an objective standpoint [words indistinct], we fully believe that the world is divided into two worlds: the oppressors and the oppressed. We state that the United States [word indistinct] at the head of the world of the oppressors and we strongly declare that Carter's defeat and Reagan's appointment have not and will not change the barbaric and inhuman nature of imperialism.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI concludes its editorial: Undoubtedly, if our Muslim people succeed in preserving their faith in victory and [words indistinct], if our good earth continues to give [words indistinct], then our people [words indistinct].

TEHRAN CRITICIZES ALLEGED BRZEZINSKI REMARK SUPPORTING IRAQ

GF071540 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1414 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Citing informed diplomatic sources in London, the San'a' newspaper ATH-THAWRAH said that U.S. national security adviser Brzezinski said at a meeting: If we want to stop the Islamic revolution from spreading, the United States will have to support Iraq.

We ask Brzezinski why he wants to stop the Islamic revolution from spreading? The United States supports human rights, and the Islamic revolution is also for human rights. The great Imam Khomeyni arose to liberate Muslims from the yoke of foreign exploitation and domination. One of the Islamic revolution's aims is to sever the foreign hand that is plundering the wealth of oppressed and downtrodden peoples.

The colonialists have plundered Muslims' wealth for many centuries. This plunder continued unabated until recently. The colonialists took it upon themselves to bring up the sons of puppet kings so that when they succeeded their fathers they were more subservient to the foreigner than their predecessors had been. The puppet kings used to introduce some parliamentary changes to limit some of their absolute power. However, the result remained the same. The poor people continue to be plundered notwithstanding changes of governments and the coming of new members of parliaments. This happened in Iran during the reign of Reza Khan. When the imperialists had exhausted their use for this agent they brought to power his son, the buried Pahlavi, who learned to eat pistachio nuts and to kiss the hands of the wives of kings and presidents in Buckingham Palace and then launched his white revolution and his farcical social reform. Finally, he came up with his Rastakhiz Party. [passage omitted]

The great Khomeyni arose to liberate the oppressed from the Islam of Pahlavi, Carter and the shame of the Arabs, Saddam. The United States found no "dog's paw" filthier than the shame of Al-Qadisiyah, the madman Saddam.

Brzezinski said the United States should support Iraq, the Iraq of the agent and shameful Saddam, in carrying out its ugly actions to halt the Islamic revolution's march that threatens the interests of the United States and all imperialist circles before it topples the shaky thrones in Baghdad and Amman and all agents and reactionaries in the area. It is written in the Book of Psalms: The earth will be inherited by my virtuous worshippers.

COMMENTARY CRITICIZES U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN GULF

GF081228 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Nov 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The United States persists in its policy of sending naval vessels to the area. The Defense Department has confirmed that two ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean have passed through the Suez Canal toward the Persian Gulf. They are the destroyer Peterson and the frigate Jesse Brown. They will be reinforcing the U.S. naval force along the coast of Oman. This is in addition to earlier reinforcements of a missile carrier and two tanker planes.

Defense Department officials said that the United States had sent two KC-135 planes to Saudi Arabia. The planes are used to refuel other planes while in flight. The missile carrier Leahy has been sent to the Gulf. The two planes left a U.S. base in Britain and arrived in Saudi Arabia on 11 October. They will enable the four radar planes to fly around the clock if necessary. Pentagon circles assert that the presence of the aircraft carrier [as heard] Leahy will increase U.S. firepower in that area in the face of any change in the balance of power that threatens U.S. interests.

What is significant is that reactionaries in the area--the principal allies of the infidel Saddam's regime--are trying to cover up the real face of this U.S. intervention and military presence under the guise that it is intended to protect "the wealth and sanctities." As an official in the area put it, "the presence of the AWACS planes was in response to Saudi Arabia's request to reinforce the Saudi Air Force and protect its wealth and sanctities. As though the protection of Islamic sanctities has become the task of the United States!

U.S. Government sources say that this presence is primarily intended to impose full U.S. hegemony and protect U.S. interests and defend such reactionary regimes in the area as Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and other countries. In his interview on ABC television on 9 October, Carter said: What worries me in the escalation of the conflict is that the Iranian-Iraqi war should intensify and other states in the Middle East might become involved in the war. In an impudent political and information coverup attempt, Carter added: The most serious thing which entails the worst consequences for the rest of the world would be for the Soviet Union to become involved militarily in the Iranian-Iraqi conflict.

Thus, the serious U.S. role becomes clearer, a role that is (?guided) by Carter's principle of aggression against the interests of peoples struggling for their freedom, independence, national sovereignty and social progress. The peoples and forces of the area will continue to be vigilant in the face of imperialist policies. They are alert to the allies of imperialism who implement these policies and who believe that they are able to strike at the Islamic revolution and open the way to the Camp David parties to strike at the Palestinian revolution and impose imperialist plans on the area and its peoples.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUE 269

LD071735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Nov 80

[Communique 269 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. Dear Muslim revolutionary compatriots of Iran: your brave brothers at sea and the guards on the territorial waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran today, 7 November, during a sea battle and confrontation in the Persian Gulf succeeded in sinking two modern enemy gunboats. A third Iraqi gunboat fled while the battle was in progress.

The two Iraqi gunboats, which were sunk were a modern rescue boat and a torpedo launcher [word indistinct].

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran